

Peter Peri / Pilgrims Progress Suite
18 etchings . Publication exhibition

St George's Gallery Prints
7 Cork Street. London w1 / RE Gent 36 60
8th March to 5th April 1958

The art of illustration is to-day almost extinct by which is meant not merely the illustration of episodes but the expression in graphic terms of the force of a literary work. Perhaps it is true that the present day artist is unwilling to translate in this way from one medium into another. Mr Peter Peri disowns this attitude and a glance at his work makes it plain that he possesses the first necessary qualification of the true illustrator - a genuine identification with the subject. In attempting to illustrate the dramatic qualities of the Pilgrim's Progress in eighteen large plates he has set himself technical problems which form a counterpart to Christian's perilous progress. Mr Peri is a traditionalist, equipped with a technique which is experimental and contemporary, who has been bold enough not to dispense with Bunyan's 17th century imagery but introduces it in a manner both curious and original. He employs the processes of engraving, aquatint, etching and relief-etching, the last as used by Blake to whom he looks as the model of the artist-engraver-illustrator. It is a mark of his success that the best of his plates such as Lot's Wife, Christian and Faithful in the Valley of the Shadow of Death, Death of Faithful and Towards the Gate enhance the apparently successful designs. The whole set makes an impact of the kind experienced in a new reading of Bunyan's allegory. This is an exceptional achievement which will surely receive the recognition it deserves.

P H Hulton

Assistant Keeper in the Department of Prints &
Drawings, British Museum

- 1 Christian and the City of Destruction
- 2 The Slough of Despond
 - 1 Christian, Pliable, Obstinate
 - 2 Christian, Pliable
 - 3 Christian, Pliable, Helpful
- 3 Christian, The Evangelist and the Wordly Wiseman
- 4 The Wicket Gate

Christian, Goodwill and Belzebub
- 5 The House of the Interpreter
 - 1 The Devil tries to quench the fire / the work of grace / with water. Christ maintains it with the oil of his grace
 - 2 The Law fails to sweep up the dust / original sin / The woman by sprinkling it with water / the gospel / subdues the sin
 - 3 The man who sinned much and as punishment cannot repent in the iron cage
- 6 Christian at the Cross and the three 'shining ones'
- 7 The House beautiful

Christian, the lions and the porter
- 8 Christian and Apollyon
- 9 Christian and Faithful in the Valley of the Shadow of Death
- 10 The Vanity Fair

Christian and Faithful
- 11 The Death of Faithful (reproduced opposite)
- 12 The Silver Mine

Demas, Christian and Hopeful
- 13 Lot's Wife

Christian and Hopeful
- 14 The Doubting Castle
- 15 The Delectable Mountains

Christian and Hopeful with the Shepherds
- 16 The River without a Bridge
- 17 Towards the Gate
- 18 The Reception



This Suite, all the prints of which have been printed by the artist himself, exists in two editions

- 1 Separate sheets are in an edition of 75 copies numbered in arabic numerals and are priced at 8 gns each uncoloured and 9 gns each in colour
- 2 The entire Suite of 18 etchings in a folder exists in 50 copies, each sheet being numbered in roman numerals. The price of the Suite without colour is £122 and in colour £150

